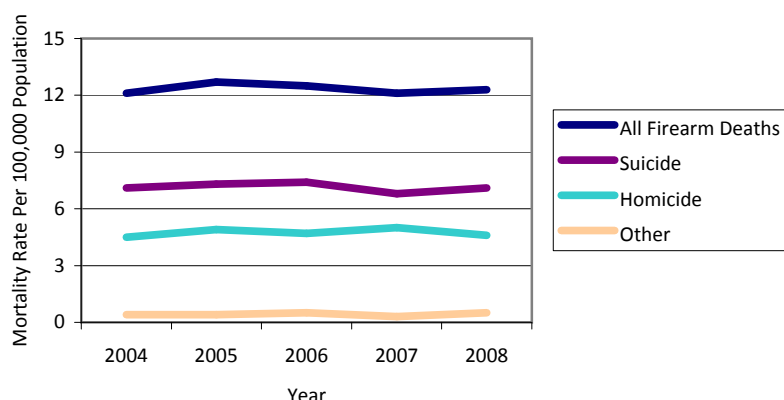


Firearm Deaths in North Carolina

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January, 2004. This document summarizes 2008 firearm-related deaths among N.C. residents.

Figure 1: N.C. Annual Firearm Death Rates, 2004-2008



- In 2008, there were 1,134 firearm-related deaths in North Carolina.

- Causes of death attributable to firearm mortality include suicide (58%), homicide (38%), unintentional discharge of firearm (1%), legal intervention involving discharge of firearm (2%), and undetermined intent (1%).

- The rate of firearm-related deaths in North Carolina has been relatively stable since 2004 (12.1) to 2008 (12.3) (Figure 1).

- The mortality rates for firearm-related deaths in 2008 were: suicide 7.1, homicide 4.6, and other (unintentional, legal intervention and undetermined) 0.5.

- The most common location of firearm deaths were: apartment or home (74.1%), street/road, sidewalk or alley (8.6%), motor vehicle (excluding school bus or public transportation) (2.7%), natural area (e.g., field, woods, beaches) (2.7%), and other establishments (e.g., grocery store, laundromat) (2.3%).

- More than half (60%) of all North Carolina violent deaths are due to firearms (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Violent Deaths by Method, 2008

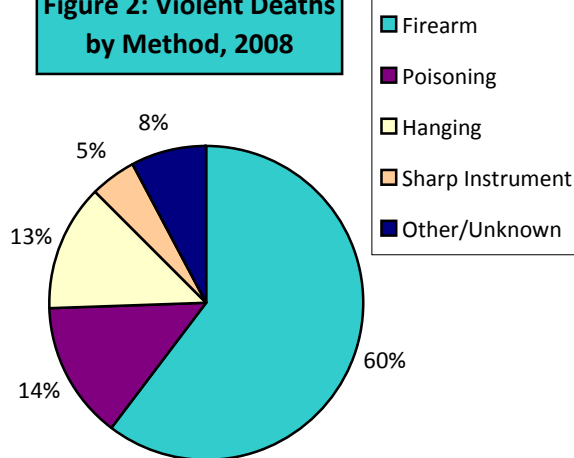
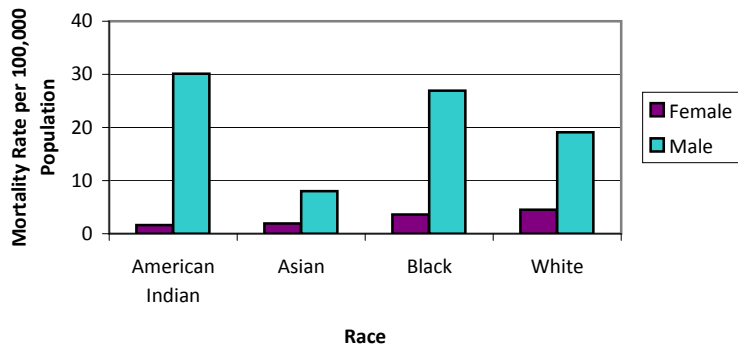


Figure 3: Firearm Death Rates by Sex and Race, 2008



- American Indian (30.1) and black (26.9) men have highest firearm mortality rate compared to white (19.1) and Asian (8.0) men (Figure 3).

- Although rates are much lower in females than males, white women have the highest firearm mortality rate (4.5) compared to other races: black (3.6), American Indian (1.6), Asian (1.9) (Figure 3).

- The majority of all North Carolina firearm-related deaths were men (83%). By comparison, females account for relatively few firearm deaths annually (17%) (Figure 4).

- Firearm-related mortality rates peak in men between ages 25-34 at a rate of 31.2, and begin to rise again later in life, while rates among women peak between the ages of 35-44 at a rate of 7.0 (Figure 4).

- Suicide is the most common type of firearm-related death among whites (76.1%) and Asians (62.5%), while homicide is the more common type among blacks (80.6%) and American Indians (64.7%)(Figure 5).

Figure 4: Firearm Death Rates by Sex and Age, 2008

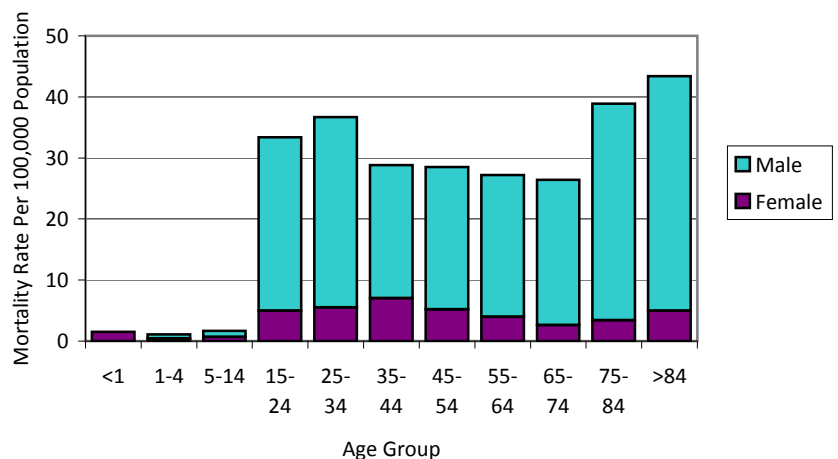
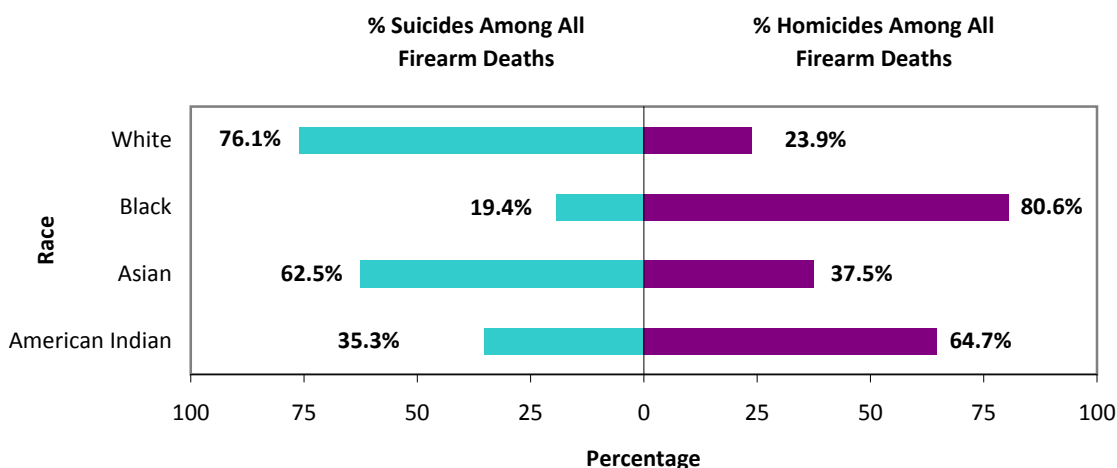


Figure 5: Percent of Suicides and Homicides by Race, 2008



The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement SU17/CE423098-08 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).